

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 AGR-05 IO-10 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 /102 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3963

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, KN, IR, KS

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN MISSION SEEKING CREDIT GETS COOL RECEPTION.

1. NORTH KOREAN MISSION HEADED BY CHONG CHUN-KI, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MEMBER STANDING COMMITTEE DPKR SUPREME COUNCIL, VISITED IRAN OCTOBER 14-17. OTHER MEMBERS WERE ASIAN BUREAU DIRECTOR AND THREE OTHER OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. CHONG WAS RECEIVED BY SHAH AND PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA IN SEPARATE MEETINGS OCTOBER 16 AND BY ACTING FONMIN TAJBAKHSI OCTOBER 17. MFA OFFICIAL AKHAVAN-TAGHAVI COMMENTED THAT AUDIENCE WITH SHAH HAD BEEN SET UP ON SHORT NOTICE, BUT SHAH FELT HE COULD NOT REFUSE TO SEE CHONG. ROK EMBASSY NOTES THAT VISIT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR WEEK, AND UNDERSTANDS GOI'S COOL RECEPTION TO MISSION CAUSED NORTH KOREANS TO LEAVE EARLY. SUN SAID DPRK'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE WAS EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND FORCED MISSION TO MAKE A DESPERATE APPEAL FOR LINE OF CREDIT OF \$200 MILLION WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED EARLIER. REZA KHALEGHI-ROD, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN LOANS, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, TOLD ECONOFF PROPOSED PRE-IMPORT CREDIT OF \$200 MILLION HAS BEEN ON AND OFF SINCE VISIT OF NORTH KOREANS ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO. GOI HAS MADE CLEAR IT WILL NOT DISBURSE UNTIL NORTH KOREANS HAVE CONCLUDED

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SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOI. TO KHALEGHI-ROD'S

KNOWLEDGE, NOTHING HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AND THUS NO DISBURSEMENT HAS BEEN MADE. REASON FOR NORTH KOREAN FAILURE TO FULFILL THIS PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENT IS NOT KNOWN. ROK EMBASSY ASSUMES PRODUCTS DPRK MAY EVENTUALLY SEND WILL INCLUDE CEMENT, STEEL PRODUCTS, AND CORN.

2. SOUTH KOREANS ASSUME KOREAN ISSUE IN UNGA WAS TAKEN UP BY CHONG MISSION, BUT HAVE IMPRESSION GOI STOOD FIRM IN PLANS TO VOTE WITH ROK.

3. ANOTHER MAJOR TOPIC OF CHONG MISSION, ACCORDING TO SUN OF ROK EMBASSY, WAS PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF DPRK PRESIDENT KIM II SUNG. SHAH HAD TOLD VISITING ROK MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY YEIJOON CHANG DURING OCTOBER 12 AUDIENCE THAT KIM'S FORTHCOMING VISIT(NO TIMING MENTIONED) WAS NOT CONVENIENT, BUT NORTH KOREANS HAD INSISTED AND SHAH FELT HE COULD NOT REFUSE TO ALLOW KIM TO COME.

4. DPRK TRADE MISSION IS DUE TO ARRIVE TEHRAN OCTOBER 20. ACCORDING TO SUN, ITS PURPOSE IS TO RENEGOTIATE TRADE PROTOCOL OF LAST YEAR.

5. SUN ADDED THAT GOI MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSARY PLANS TO GO TO SEOUL NOVEMBER 27 TO HEAD IRANDEL TO JOINT MINISTERIAL TALKS WITH ROK.
MIKLOS

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